

CLAIMS:

1. A method of encoding an audio signal, the method comprising the steps of:
 - providing a respective set of sampled signal values ($x(t)$) for each of a plurality of sequential time segments;
 - analyzing the sampled signal values ($x(t)$) to determine one or more sinusoidal components for each of the plurality of sequential segments;
 - linking sinusoidal components across a plurality of sequential segments to provide sinusoidal tracks, each track comprising a number of frames; and
 - generating an encoded signal (AS) including sinusoidal codes (C_s) comprising a representation level (r) for zero or more frames and where some of these codes (C_s) comprise a phase (ϕ), a frequency (ω) and a quantization table (Q) for a given frame when the given frame is designated as a random-access frame.
2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein a selection between a code for a frame comprising a representation level (r) and a code for a frame comprising a phase (ϕ), a frequency (ω) and a quantization table (Q) is made in dependence upon a trigger signal (Trig.).
3. A method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein each quantization table (Q) is represented by an index (IND) and where the index (IND) is transmitted from the encoder (1) to the decoder (3) at a random-access frame (702) instead of transmitting the quantization table (Q).
4. A method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the index (IND) is generated or represented, using Huffman coding.
5. A method as claimed in claims 1 to 4, wherein the phase (ϕ) and the frequency (ω) for a random-access frame is the current phase ($\phi(0)$) and the current frequency ($\omega(0)$).

6. A method of decoding an encoded audio stream (AS'), the method comprising the steps of:
- receiving a signal including the encoded audio stream (AS'), the audio stream (AS') comprising tracks of sinusoidal codes (C_s), where the sinusoidal codes (C_s) comprises a representation level (r) for zero or more frames and where some of these codes (C_s) comprise a phase (ϕ), a frequency (ω) and a quantization table (Q) for a given frame when the given frame is designated as a random-access frame.
7. A method as claimed in claim 6, wherein each quantization table (Q) is represented by an index (IND) and where the index (IND) is received from an encoder (1) instead of reception of the quantization table (Q) at a random-access frame (702).
8. A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the index (IND) is generated or represented, using Huffman coding.
9. A method as claimed in claims 6 to 8, wherein the phase (ϕ) and the frequency (ω) for a random-access frame is the current phase ($\phi(0)$) and the current frequency ($\omega(0)$).
10. An audio encoder arranged to process a respective set of sampled signal values for each of a plurality of sequential time segments, the encoder comprising:
- an analyzer for analyzing the sampled signal values to determine one or more sinusoidal components for each of the plurality of sequential segments;
 - a linker (13) for linking sinusoidal components across a plurality of sequential segments to provide sinusoidal tracks, each track comprising a number of frames;
 - means (15) for providing an encoded signal (AS) including sinusoidal codes (C_s) comprising a representation level (r) for zero or more frames and where some of these codes (C_s) comprise a phase (ϕ), a frequency (ω) and a quantization table (Q) for a given frame when the given frame is designated as a random-access frame.
11. An audio player comprising:
- means for receiving a signal including the encoded audio stream (AS'), the audio stream (AS') comprising tracks of sinusoidal codes (C_s), where the sinusoidal codes

(C_s) comprises a representation level (r) for zero or more frames and where some of these codes (C_s) comprise a phase (ϕ), a frequency (ω) and a quantization table (Q) for a given frame when the given frame is designated as a random-access frame, and

- 5 - a synthesizer arranged to employ the zero or more received representation levels and the received phase (ϕ), frequency (ω) and quantization table (Q) for a given frame when the given frame is designated as a random-access frame in order to synthesize the sinusoidal components of the audio signal (y(t)).

12. An audio system comprising an audio encoder as claimed in claim 10 and an
10 audio player as claimed in claim 11.

13. An audio stream comprising sinusoidal codes (C_s) representing tracks of sinusoidal components linked across a plurality of sequential time segments of an audio signal, where the sinusoidal codes (C_s) comprises a representation level (r) for zero or more
15 frames and where some of these codes (C_s) comprise a phase (ϕ), a frequency (ω) and a quantization table (Q) for a given frame when the given frame is designated as a random-access frame.

14. A storage medium on which an audio stream as claimed in claim 13 has been
20 stored.